
ARENA REPORT

Volume III, Number 8

January 21, 1991

Welcome to another issue of "AR". I usually type this first page mid-week before the Monday mailing. So I am typing this three hours after the United States has started its attack on Iraq. Right now, this newsletter and wrestling seem so unimportant and in reality compared to what is going on, it is. However, I wanted to do this now for a main reason. This issue will have a live report on the ROYAL RUMBLE which is being held in Miami. I'd be lying to you if I told you I wasn't a little nervous about attending the show. Two reasons. The first is the talk about terrorist attacks in the U.S. Specifically, in Florida. The second is Sgt. Slaughter. When Vince first started this angle, I didn't see it being that much of a deal. I've changed my mind. How are the fans in Miami going to react to Slaughter and Adnon only three days after war has begun. It's a scary thought. You're talking riot here. Especially if Vince gives him the strap. We have ringside seats but that is where I don't want to be if Sarge wins the belt. I'd almost go so far as to pull them off the show. If Vince wants heat, he'll get more than he bargained for. This issue also has a live report from Jacksonville and the NWA from 1/19 which is tomorrow as I type this. I'm not too up for that show either. Evan Ginzburg has a special report on the UWF tapings that were held in N.Y. last week. Scott Hudson goes over the happenings at the recent WCW Pro tapings held in Marietta which will surely make you wonder if Dusty will be good for the NWA. Klon will be along with his opinion of the Rumble I'm sure and Marianne Ryan returns with some "Notes From The Parking Lot" that I hope will not offend anybody. "Correspondent's Corner" and "Letters To "AR" round out the issue.

The next issue will be coverdated February 4 and will include a tentative live report on the IWCCW taping to be held at Disney. The IWCCW is the combined groups of what was left of World Class and the ICW promotion. I say tentative because I haven't been able to confirm that date with any party involved. We'll also talk about the Clash which takes place on 1/30 and the NBC Prime Time special for the WWF which airs on 2/1. Since readership is at an all time high and I've gotten many questions as to my age, background, etc. I will do a short editor's profile next issue. I hope to have each of my columnists do the same in the months to come. Scott Hudson, Mike Terry, and Evan Ginzburg will be here next issue as well.

"Arena Report" comes out bi-weekly and costs \$1.00 per issue. All renewals, letters, and match reports may be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547 Lake Mary, FL 32795. Letters were a little light this time out so how about dipping those pens in some ink and sending me some comments about anything going on in the world of wrestling. I will try to call the NWA WCW now but I may slip from time to time. I usually hate change but I'll try this one. Time to head to the city of crime where Klon and myself were joined by Jeff Bowdren, Dave Flaherty, the surprise guest Tom Robinson and a buddy of his who of at this time, I don't know who it is.

An update on what you'll find in this issue: I received a piece from Dr. Mike Lano on the groups trip to Japan. So that is included as well. Even though his title may be the same as other articles for newsletters, this piece was done exclusively for "AR". Also, a few letters came in so the letters pages isn't as minimal as I thought it would be. Sorry to jump the gun. Read on and enjoy!!!!

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Royal Rumble...

Saturday, January 19, 1991

Miami Arena

Miami, FL

Opening Match

Nasty Boy Jerry Saggs beat Sam Houston in 5:25. A surprise warm up as you usually get Brooklyn Brawler vs. Jim Powers or other sad bouts like that. Sam took a rail shot and clothesline in succession. Real hot opener. Houston came off the top rope and Saggs caught him and gave Sam a power-slam for the win. ** $\frac{1}{2}$

Tag Team Match

The Rockers beat Orient Express in 19:14. I can't wait to see the tape of the show and see if this came off as good on TV. Excellant bout. All four looked super. Finish was interesting as Kato was going to slingshot Jannetty into Tanaka's chop but Michaels punched Pat in the gut and Marty sunset flipped Tanaka. Dave Flaherty yelled at Marty, "How's Chici! in reference to the jobber that Jannetty almost crippled in Tampa last month. Best match so far this year. (Yeah, I know it's early.) ****

----Sherri came out for an interview with Mean Gene and demanded Warrior come out and talk to her. She wanted Warrior to agree to wrestle Savage if he beat Slaughter. When Ultimate came out, Sherri flirted with him and did everything but, well, you saw it most likely. Anyways, Warrior says no and leaves. Pretty lame. I'm still wondering though where Randy came from after Warrior left. He came flying from the other side of the arena.

3rd Match

Big Boss Man reversed a flying press from Barbarian and won the bout in ? Talk about being fooled by a false finish. After BBM hotshotted Barbie, the ref counted to two and I hit my stop watch at what would have been three. Thus, I didn't get the time. The whole arena was giving Heenan shit about his arrest for possession. We started chanting, "Just say no." Some little kid behind us said, "Didn't they teach you that in school?" Good bump by both when Bubba gave Barbie a clothesline and they both flew out of the ring. ** $\frac{1}{2}$

WWF Heavyweight Championship

Sgt. Slaughter defeated Ultimate Warrior to win the WWF title in 12:46. Still can't believe they went through with it. The whole match and storyline was done tremendously. Great booking. When Ultimate hit the ring, he went after both Sarge and Adnon. He doubleclotheslined them breaking the flag of Iraq and Adnon headed for the dressing room. Smart move. It was really dumb to have Kaissey come out waving the flag. Pretty risky. Slaughter took some real good bumps. Halfway through, Sherri came out and Warrior chased her back to the dressing room but when he got near the end of the runway, Savage shot out and clotheslined him. Great stuff. Warrior beat the count in and they went into a rest with Sarge holding a bearhug. Ultimate made the recovery and was giving the shoulderblocks when Sherri cmae back down and got on the apron. (While gingerly laying the sceptor on the mat. Did you think it wouldn't be used?) Warrior picked Sherri up and Randy came down and Sherri took an amazing bump as Hellwig threw her on Savage. Slaughter came from behind and nailed Warrior. With Ultimate slumped on the second rope, Randy potatoed him with the sceptor and glass flew everywhere. Looked great. Sarge then made the pinfall and the arena was stunned. Twenty security guys then came out of the dressing room and lined the runway to protect Slaughter. Using Randy the way they did took some heat off of the Sarge. Vince is still scum to play on the country's emotions with a real life problem. Should I feel guilty for enjoying this action? **** $\frac{1}{4}$

5th Match

The Mountie Jacques Rougeau beat Koko Ware in 9:06. I felt bad for these two. No one was into it after what they all saw. Funny to watch Jimmy Hart talking to Frankie. Lame finish as Rougeau grabbed Koko by the throat and slammed him to the mat for the win. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

Tag Team Match

Ted DiBiase & Virgil beat Dusty & Dustin Rhodes in 9:57. We picked up the chants at Dusty, "Fire the booker." The breakup between Virg and Ted started as Virgil accidentally hit DiBiase but the Million Dollar Man layed into him and threw him out of the ring. Dusty then missed a charge and Ted pinned him. Sayanorra Big, Big Dust. Ted then threw his belt on the mat and wanted Virgil to pick it up but Virgil popped him in the side of

the head and Ted bled hardway. Pat Patterson was standing right next to me to watch the turn. As soon as Virg hit Ted and the crowd popped big time, Pat had a grin from ear to ear. Must have been his baby. ** $\frac{1}{2}$

Royal Rumble

Hulk Hogan (yawn) won the rumble by eliminating Earthquake at 1 hour and 5 minutes. How predictable after Undertaker got eliminated. I heard it was even worse on TV as after they announced that Slaughter had desecrated the flag that Hulk said he'd win for the troops in the middle east. Some thoughts on the match which wasn't better than last years'. None of the fans could figure out why Valentine was going after Jimmy Hart. Remember not everyone saw the breakup angle.....Jake potatoed Martel. Rick spent his long stint spitting out blood from his mouth.....At one point, Kerry put the claw on Jake and Klon yelled, "Hey Kerry, that's a snake, not a cat." If you don't get it, you'll hear about the Von Erich and the cats story someday, just don't be eating at a Chinese restaurant when you do..... We were puzzled as to why no one came out as the 18th guy and figured it would be explained on TV but no go. It was to have been Savage..... Jim Neidhart banged his knee on the ring apron when he ran to the ring. Looked like he was in pain.....Brian Knobbs (Nasty Boy) got inaugurated when he got in the ring. About 7 guys went after him. Wonder how it felt to slug away at the "legend".....Brian "Crush" Adams took a nasty bump from Hogan to get eliminated.....Overall this rumble was lackluster and I'm not looking forward to WRESTLEMANIA. Hogan with the title again is the last thing I want to see.....

NOTES

Crowd was a sellout at 15,000..... Thanks to Dave Flaherty for copping awesome seats. We were fourth row right at the guardrail where the ramp was. Thanks also for letting Jeff and I sit in his seats as he was at the end of the row. What a guy. All that and strike out at the same time.....Tom Robinson wasn't feeling up to going to the card but we saw him at the bar afterwards.....No kayfabing there. Curt Hennig, Rockers, the Rhodes, Paul Roma all nestled in the corner having drinks.....Bowdren made a good point as we saw Dusty with some female. How do you explain to your son when he enters the business, "Son, I've been screwing around on your mom for twenty years. That's the biz.".....I wish I had a camera. Earthquake's wife is about 4'9 and weighs 90 pounds. Now that would be an earthquake.....Some woman looked like Alexandra York. Jeff pronounced that he'd like to play with her floppy discs.....I had the displeasure of meeting the most obnoxious cretin since I've been associated with wrestling. Ken Chastain. He was the victim of Blackheart Tom Nash's headbutt at Nash's wedding. When I heard that I was perplexed. What would possess someone to do that at their own wedding. After spending 5 minutes near this guy, I have no more questions. Should have used a piledriver Tom.....Went to Denny's after the bar. Atlas and Whacker Butch walked in. We were laughing about Luke's 19 seconds in the fray when he whacker walked into the ring, got thrown out and whacker walked out again. Butch saw us and said, "How's it going." I had to crack up. The guy sounds as normal as me. Keep quiet.....When our waiter didn't quite hear Klon's request for a cheeseburger, Klon broke it down for him, "I want a piece of meat with a slab of cheese on top between two buns." Sounds like a good punchline to a joke.....There was much speculation that Tenyru would be on the card but no go. Heard he was in the back though. Best Titan live show I've seen in a while.

RAMBLINGS

Not much room but here goes. Looks like we'll be force fed Dusty sooner than we thought. He'll be the color man for all PPVs and Clashes unless of course he comes out of retirement which means we lose either way.....TBS wasted no time in mentioning him the day after the Rumble.....Dusty already up to his

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SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

WHAT'S CAUSIN' ALL THIS ?! Why its just little ol' issue twelve of the official column of the 1996 Summer Olympics, The Georgia Wrestling Journal.

CENTER STAGE Atlanta, Georgia (01-08-91) NWA TV TAPING FOR AIR ON JANUARY 26, 1991. World Championship Wrestling: Ricky Morton over Rip Rogers..Sid Vicious over Greg Sawyer..Tim Horner over Sheik Shikar..Michael Wallstreet over Scott Allen..Doom over Mike Hart & Mike Chappel..Brian Pillman over Cajun Predator..Freebirds over David Iseley & John Faulkner..Scott Steiner over John Peterson..The Royal Family (Victory & Morgan) over Keith Hart & Larry Santo..Barry Windham & Arn Anderson over Carl Peterson & Rick Ford..Bobby Eaton over Brett Wayne Sawyer..Renegade Warriors over State Patrol..
NEWS AND NOTES: Matt Borne, Steve Austin, and Jeanie Clark sat in the stands about four rows behind me. They were way out of camera range..All personnel were given drug tests prior to the show. No word on any problems..They continue to lay the foundation for a Ron Simmons babyface turn as he acts very hesitant about continuing to pound defeated jobbers. He pulls Reed off of a jobber following their squash on this show..The 01-07-91 taping in Perry, Georgia, at Reaves Arena drew 5400 and a \$26,000 house. (ATT: 1000)

COBB COUNTY CIVIC CENTER Marietta, Georgia (01-14-91) WCW Pro TV TAPING FOR AIR JANUARY 26 THROUGH FEBRUARY 9. (01-26-91): Barry Windham & Arn Anderson over Tommy Rich & Ricky Morton..Tom Zenk over Bobby Eaton..Brian Pillman over Bill Ford..Ron Simmons over ?..Sid Vicious over Topp Delian..Rick & Scott Steiner over Mike Sample & Todd Burton..(02-02-91) Michael Wallstreet over Tim Parker..Lex Luger over John Nicholson..Sid Vicious over Jimmy More..
..Tommy Rich & Ricky Morton over Barry Windham & Arn Anderson..(02-09-91): Ron Simmons over Scott Sammons..Sid Vicious over Mike Cavacho..Junkyard Dog over Tom Burton..Sting over Buddy Landell..Ric Flair and El Gigante in a no contest..Brad Armstrong, Tim Horner, & Terry Taylor over Pat Rose, Rip Rogers, & Master Blaster Steele..
NEWS AND NOTES: During a match taped for the Main Event pitting The Four Horsemen against Alan Iron Eagle, Tim Horner, & The Southern Boys; Brian Pillman, Sting, and the Steiners all ran in. During this, Rick Steiner hyperextended his right knee and was seriously limping and looked to be a bad shape. No word yet on his condition..An unknown jobber jumps Ron Simmons during a live Danger Zone on the 01-26 show..Sting pinned Landell in 1:50 on the 02-09 show..Also on the 02-09 show, Lance Russell interviews David Sierra whom he identifies as "El Gigante's official interpreter". Sierra states that Gigante wants a shot at Ric Flair's title. Flair, who is already in the ring, stares at Sierra until Gigante walks up. Flair then slaps Gigante as he stands at ringside with Russell. Gigante then tears off his shirt, jumps into the ring and chokes Flair almost unconscious until Windham, Anderson, Taylor, Horner, Sierra, & Brad Armstrong run in to pull Gigante off of Flair. This was really good. (ATT: 1200.)

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES: My first taping as co-host of Georgia All-Star Wrestling was 01-20 in Canton, Georgia. Joe Pedicino did play-by-play while I handled the color..Do not be surprised to see Norman working for the GWF when his contract is up..Tappings upcoming for NWA on 01-21 at Center Stage and 01-22 at the Georgia Mountains Center in Gainesville, Ga.. Just so you'll know, Pedicino does have the money to start his new group. Don't let anybody convince you otherwise. Hey, would I lie

THE LAST WORD...

Hey, Blackjack....

Got change for a \$20?



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Thursday, January 17, 1991

Jacksonville Coliseum

Jacksonville, FL

Opening Match

Brad Armstrong beat Bill Irwin in 11:27. The whip cracking sounded good in the near empty arena. Can't get over how thin Wild Bill is. Brad worked over Irwin's left arm most of the match. Irwin had Brad up for an airplane spin but Armstrong shimmied down and sunset flipped Bill for the win. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

2nd Match

Tim Horner pinned Moondog Rex in 12:43. Looks like Moondog has lost some poundage. Probably laying off the milkbones. Rex went for a suplex but "Whit Lightning" small packaged him for the win. $\frac{1}{4}$ *

World Television Championship

Bobby Eaton defeated Tom Zenk via over top rope DQ in 16:05. Two weeks after Arn beat Zenk for the belt and Z Man still recognized as champ. Copying Vince isn't a form of flattery, it's a form of stupidity. Tony Gillam announced Eaton as one half of the Midnight Express which either means Lane and Cornette are coming back or Tony was goofing around. I think it was the latter. Goofing like that could cost him his job. Match wasn't good. Zenk's a zero. After the DQ, Tony announced that the belt can't change hands on a DQ. Besides that fact, Arn Anderson wouldn't have been too happy about it. *

4th Match

Michael Wallstreet over Terry Taylor in 11:41 with the Wall Street crash. No Alexandra York. Wallstreet said he'd pin Terry in under 16:03. Complete that job. Rotunda went under the ring and put something in his knee brace and would sock Taylor in the face every once in a while with a handful of air. First 10 minutes were dreadful which means only 1:41 was good. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

World Tag Team Championship-Street Fight

Barry Windham & Arn Anderson beat Doom via DQ in 4:53. A DQ in a street fight? You got it. Is there any doubt Dusty is back? Even though it was short, it was awesome. All action. Arn paid tribute to the Roadies with a pair of Zoobaz pants on. Reed was hitting Arn with the bell ringer which opened him up. Barry hit Simmons with the table and then Ron turned it around and slammed Barry on top of it breaking the table in two. Four star match ruined by the finish. With Ron small packaging Barry, Teddy Long comes in and threatens to hit Arn with his shoe so the ref DQ's Doom. I know they're doing the breakup of Doom but couldn't they have blown that off for these street fights? Simmons threatened to hit Long but Reed talked him out of it. Ron left the ring alone. *** $\frac{3}{4}$

World Heavyweight Championship

Ric Flair retained his newly won title by pinning Sting using the ropes at 22: First 10 minutes were the same Flair-Sting schtick. But they did some different stuff the rest of the way and it turned into a good bout. I'm just tired of these two matched up. I voted this feud of the year for 1990, but this is 1991 and this feud has run its course. **** $\frac{1}{4}$

NOTES

Crowd was only about 1,200 and I'm sure the war had something to do with. Also, this was the second month in a row for Sting-Flair and since Sting pinned him last time and they had two weeks before Flair regained the title to promote this card, what could they use for an excuse for another rematch?.....They were handing out a flyer at the door promoting a Demolition derby for J-Ville on the 20th featuring Buddy Landell. (It's a celebrity derby.) Wonder if Budro will do a job for them too.....No line-ups in the program tonight. Probably because they always change the show anyway. Why look foolish. Too late..... I was putting "AR" flyers on car windshields before the show and had done about 90 when a security guy made me stop. Thankfully, he didn't make me go and remove them all. So I pulled an Evan Ginzburg and put the rest on the counter in the mens' room. Probably used them as toilet paper.

(from page 3)

screw job ways. In Chicago on 1/20, Sting apparently regained the title but ref who was bumped came to and said Sting threw Ric over the top rope so they dq'd Sting and gave the title back to Ric. All in front of 1,600 fans. What a waste of money they are putting into WGN.....WRESTEWAR lineup besides the War Games will be Spivey-Luger, Vader-Hansen, and Doom-Freebirds so far. I guess Simmons won't turn at the Clash. That's a weird matchup.....Although Larry Cameron could be thrown in there.....Late word is that Global will strike

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EVAN GINZBURG REPORTS

1991 started off with a bang as the New York UWF T.V. tapings debuted, and Ric Flair regained his title at the Meadowlands Arena.

Approximately 1,000 fans paid \$12 a head to witness 18 UWF matches. There was a real feeling of excitement in the air, particularly as Ric Rude was introduced and sat at ringside throughout much of the proceedings (also first row- Nikolai Volkoff & Killer Kowalski). Spotted in the crowd, Tom Burke, Promoter Joel Goodheart, Ferk, The Jersey Devil & Vinnie DiPalma of Cassette Wrestling News fame, Scott Dickinson, and various other wrestling "celebrities." Adding to the fun atmosphere was the fact that many of the wrestlers freely mingled with fans, signing autographs and chatting (even top promotion heels like Tolos & Ivan Koloff).

As they were the first TV tapings in NY since 1964, there was indeed a sense of history on this night. Highlights included a 3* Orndorff-Dr. Death bloodbath, a colorful Debeers-Iceman clash and a great Cactus Jack squash of a local guy whose name escapes me. The fans popped big time when Rude challenged Orndorff in mid-ring (that's a match that could very well sell tix). Of course sitting through a dozen or so squashes gets a bit numbing, but that's sort of a "necessary evil" that will occur at any taping and isn't a relevant criticism. Probably the biggest pop of the night, though, was when Honkytonk clobbered Greg Valentine with his guitar, and it's interesting that McMahon's hyping of an angle is actually going to work against him as another promotion will capitalize on it.

The key here, is that this promotion does have **tremendous**, unlimited potential. The fans were enthusiastic & turned out on a day in which the weather was pretty piss poor. A new set of tapings were already announced & new talent like Nikita Koloff is coming in. Hopefully they'll continue to bring in guys besides the ex-WWF stars to keep things interesting...

Speaking of miserable weather, a **major** snowstorm hit the metropolitan area, killing the NWA's walk-up (do these guys have all the luck or what?). It also seems like it killed the guys' desire to work as the show was horrendous outside of the Flair title change which I'll be getting to shortly. Outside of The Iron Sheik & Rip Rogers there weren't any no-shows, but most of the guys didn't look like they cared. Tom Zenk was viciously booed (in his match against masked jobber Black Angel), and he legitimately looked ticked off. He's not called the Zzzzzzzzzz man for nothing. Bobby Eaton & The Freebirds lost to El Gigante/Rich/Morton & Eaton was the only guy the fans **really** seemed to like which says something about the fans' respect for the Express. The match stunk anyway, but fun seeing Eaton trash both Birds after they attacked him. The Luger-Big Cat football shtick lasted about 90 seconds and may have been **THE WORST GIMMICK MATCH I'VE SEEN IN ALMOST 20 YEARS OF ATTENDING SHOWS (NOTE BOLDFACE FOR EMPHASIS!!! EASILY NEGATIVE 37 STARS!)**. We're talking 2 or 3 clothelines and over. Rick Steiner looked totally disinterested as the Steiners beat the horrendous Master Blasters in maybe 5 minutes. Terry Taylor booed pretty roughly and put on a mediocre match with the over-rated Mike Wallstreet.

Not much to brag about until the Flair match...

When Flair's wife came out **just** for the match & all the WCW people watched from the sidelines, I got the feeling that **this was it**. Even Magnum TA was backstage. The place popped big for Ric. Maybe people that brave snowstorms to hit wrestling cards are all **hardcore/heel** fans! The match was good (**not great**- 3½*) except for Sting not selling in spots and hurting credibility. Flair pinned him with foot on ropes/hands on tights etc. but place **exploded**. People cheered for moments afterwards. It really **felt** like a historic event took place.

Yeah, although a **big** week, it was a mixed blessing. Hope the UWF & NWA come back strong because the fans are there to support them...

UNDER THE MUSHROOM

with

KLON

Greetings "AR" readers. It is with much trepidation that I am writing this column. With the events in the Middle East what they are, a column on wrestling seems rather trivial. After getting that off my chest, I will attempt to provide you a few moments of diversion from the cold, hard realities of the world.

This past Saturday night I attended the Royal Rumble along with luminaries as Jeff "the Bookie" Bowdren, "AR" editor Ron Lemieux, Dave Flaherty and Greg Goode among others. Without a doubt this was the finest WWF card I have ever attended. Roddy Piper got a tremendous response from the crowd, too bad he only did commentary on this night. Pat Tanaka worked his butt off and deserves some recognition. I have always thought that Jacques Rougeau had good heel presence but I find the Mountie act to be a lame knock-off of the Big Bossman. Speaking of Bossman I enjoyed his match with the Barbarian, that Ray Traylor is one WWF star who works far beyond what his act requires. Thank goodness the era of the Blade Runners as the major world champions is over. Sting is an obnoxious jerk who hit his peak at Clash 3 and Hellwig is an idiot who can't wrestle, can't do an interview and is the ultimate all right, the ultimate example of what's wrong with wrestling. Overall I give a thumbs up to the show but thumbs down on McMahon's continual attempts to tie his group in with the middle east fiasco.

Those black and white Banny and Ann videos are great! Dusty is going to make sure he keeps in the limelight, ie as color commentator for the next Clash. I sure hope that he does not push Dustin too far too fast. And what about Tenny Taylor? What the heck will Dusty do with him? I personally would not mind having Flair drop the belt to Lugen. That would give Lugen a needed push and set the stage for Flair re-gaining the belt and becoming the greatest champion of all time. Following this scenario I would be very much contented as a Flair fan. In fact I would very much enjoy a long, drawn-out feud between Flair and Scott Steiner as the old master leads the young disciple into main event status. Thank you WCW/NWA for getting the belt off Sting and back where it belongs.

In closing are we soon to see Big Joe Pedicino running his first multi-million dollar production? I can see it now from the Auction Barn, the first ever Global champion is crowned, Fatback Fastus !!!

I've Gone to Japan, and I can't stop Bowing!!!

By Mike "the Dentist" Lano

special thoughts for arena only: I would like to thank Steve Gerber for coming up with this trip and doing all the headache work. "The David" and I were to have gone to Tokyo for the Ladies' Wrestlemania show last November, but our primary commitment was to Tom Robinson's benefit, which turned out to be a blast. Melt and I are contemplating going in March prior to Cauliflower alley-but the fact that NWA-NJPW may be shown in the U.S. may postpone a 2nd visit for several months. However, sign me up -I'd love to live fulltime in Japan. The heart, pagentry and serious thought that goes into Japanese Wrestling is something else. Anyone could learn all they need to know about how to be successful in the states(disregarding the economy and environmental factors which detract from attendance).

Most all shows began or after 3rd match had all the top guys get in the ring at once and salute the crowd both on the mike and by bowing. NJPW and NJ women featured all the stars then throw autographed plastic colored balls to the crowd as favours. Many of us legit cried or felt strong emotions at seeing Mutoh, Saitoh(totally correct spellings), Jushin Thunder Liger(Jushin told me his first name means animal god), Sakaguchi, Hase, Hashimoto, Chono, Fujinami, Choshu, etc get in the ring. Typically Sakaguchi or Hase got on the housemike and tell the crowd they would give it their all that night, and all year long. How many of us would appreciate the same from the goons here in the states, or even heels shaking babyface's hands after a loss and saluting them as well as marks?! It happens every show in Japan

Our group set a record for seeing 9 Japanese shows/6 promotions in 6 days. I tried to spend a lot of time seeking the cultural reasons for everything, besides the Madusa scandal info I nagged Dave for. Last names are announced first, there are no legit heels or faces as we know them=everyone is tough-only Tsuruta or Vader came across "heel=like." Everyone shakes hands or hugs after a match. Streamers fill the ring and poppers go off for the intros, and flowers are given typically for the tourneys and really big pairings. The giant cardboard check to the NJPW tourny winners only translated to around 6000 US dollars! Riger(pronounced Lyger or else you'd offend him) joked about the tiny worked payoff at the end of the show. I got him in his outfit without the mask-but he asked me to stop when he noticed my taking pictures furiously. I got photos of us holding up his mask and Vader's plastic hardware-on this trip he used Mousse to spray out as smoke-something we all laughed at. By the way, the name Vader simply refers to an ancient Japanese Warrior and the others just refers to Leon's gigantic van=equipped with everything. Therefore, he's Big Van Vader! Thank God he's not Chrysler or Pinto Vader!

The Rockers and Jeff Jarrett were as nice as they could be. Talking over the Heenan collapse everyone in Japan knew of hours after it was reported in the states, the Rockers told me,"and they told us we were the f--- up's!!!" Tim Brooks was funny chasing the Japanese photogs around and around the ring, as was Vader as he postmatch the the NJPW show 1/4 spent at least 10 minutes running threw and chasing the crowd. Bob Orton yelled at the row of Americans as they cheered his opposition, "Hey, which side are you guys on!!!" I had told him to look to the Americans near the 3rd row earlier. Chris Benoit made the trip memorable-and Herd and Pedicino- sign this talent up now, Chris knows you're interested and wants to work America too- bigtime!!

CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

The Palace (WWF)

Auburn Hills, MI

December 27, 199

Correspondent: George Wilkinson

1) Davey Boy Smith beat Warlord in an arm wrestling match. 2) Barbarian pinne Dustin Rhodes. 3) Tugboat splashed Dino Bravo. 4) Demolition downed The Rock 5) Sgt. Slaughter beat Hacksaw Duggan with his own 2x4. 6) Kerry Von Erich over Curt Hennig via DQ when special ref Roddy Piper dq'd Curt. 7) Hart Foundation over Power & Glory. 8) Earthquake over Hulk Hogan via count out when Hulk threw Quake back in before the ten count.

Madison Square Garden (WWF)

New York, NY

December 28, 199

Correspondent: Steve Meyerson

1) Koko Ware pinned Black Bart after a dropkick from the to rope. * 2) Jimmy Snuka beat Warlord via DQ when Warlord wouldn't stop choking Snuka. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 3) Rockers and Power & Glory went to a twenty minute draw. Ropes broke at 18:00 mark but last two minutes were the best. *** 4) Saba Simba beat Greg Valentine via DQ when Jimmy Hart tried to whack Atlas with the guitar but nail Greg instead. * $\frac{1}{2}$ for heat with Greg and Jimmy Hart. 5) Hulk Hogan & Tugboat over Dino Bravo & Earthquake as Hulk small packaged Bravo. ** 6) Kerry Von Erich used a discus punch to beat Virgil who subbed for DiBiase. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

7) Sgt. Slaughter & General Adnon beat Dusty Rhodes & Hacksaw Duggan as Dusty submitted to the camel clutch of Slaughter's. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 8) Roddy Piper beat Curt Hennig on a count out in 14:00. Several $2\frac{1}{2}$ counts teased the title change. Hennig sold for the first 6 minutes. Good bout. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ ATT: 12,000

Earleigh Heights Fire Dept. (MAWA) Severna Park, MD January 11, 19
Correspondent: Bruce Ginevan

1) Sledgehammer McGill beat Bubba Monroe via DQ. D 2) Jammin Joe over Bob Wissman. F 3) Morgus the Maniac pinned The Medic. F 4) Agent Orange won the Maryland State title beating Hard Rock Ricky Blues. B 5) Bad Carma used a Boston Crab to dispose of Arctic Fox in a ladies bout. F- 6) Rude Dog Kerry Davis pinned Bronco Billy. D 7) A.J. Fritzoid beat Axl Rotten. C 8) The Crea Team and the Lords of Darkness went to a double DQ. C ATT: 250

Boston Garden (WWF) Boston, MA January 12, 19
Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Dustin Rhodes bulldogged Buddy Rose in 15:17. 2) Barbarian thrust kicked S Simba in 9:05. 3) Kerry Von Erich won by DQ over Curt Hennig in 9:33 when ref Piper called for the bell after Curt rammed Kerry's head into an unpadded buck Heavens!! Piper and Curt then went at it. 4) Jake Roberts over Rick Martel v DQ in 5:29 when Rick sprayed the perfume in the face. 5) Haku karate kicked Koko Ware in 8:55. 6) Hart Foundation downed Power & Glory in 14:20. 7) Tugboat & Hulk Hogan beat Quake & Bravo in 10:51 when Hulk rolled up Dino. ATT: 6,000

Manatee Civic Center (SUNSHINE State) Palmetto, FL January 19, 19
Correspondent: Shannon Rose

1) Man Mountain Brody splashed Mr. Everything. 2) Giant Outlaw over Mark Mero on a count out. 3) Rocky Johnson beat Johnny Martel. 4) Jumbo Berretta over kick boxer Al Hardiman in a mixed match. 5) Rico Frederico & Chris Proctor over Poison Ivy & Pipeline Fever (Not kidding.) 6) Full Force over Haiti Kid Burto & Tom Sawyer. 7) Lou Perez over Black Panther. 8) Dean Malenko beat Re King on a reversed decision. 9) Debbie Drake beat Luna Vachon on DQ. 10) Masked Superstar (Bob Cook) beat Great Malenko. Yes, the Boris Malenko. Told he looked great. 11) Nasty Ned Brady won the southern title from Gator Gilmore in a no DQ and falls count anywhere in the building. ATT: 500

LETTERS TO "AR"

Missy Hyatt

I wholeheartedly disagree with Marianne Ryan's assesment of Missy Hyatt. Missy Hyatt's position on the NWA Main Event, Clashes, and PPVs is to portray a particular character. It is a rather stuck up spoiled brat routine and she plays that role very well. There is nothing wrong with that as wrestling colo commentators are not expected to be held to the same standards as play by play announcers, regardless of what any journalism proffessor may tell you. Rather they are supposed to entertain, agitate, and try to get angles over when possi Missy Hyatt efféctively does all three.. Few doubt her appearance is a major factor in her success, but that doesn't change the fact that she is a competan color commentator who plays her role well. Hence, despite Ms. Ryan's calims the contrary, her remarks about Missy did not concern Missy's job performance and were therefore personal. Further, while she may incorrectly defended her remarks by saying Missy's appearance is subject to criticism since it is important to her career, the fact is, if Missy's appearance is being used, it is not to attract Ms Ryan. Few care if Ms Ryan thinks Missy's appearance is real or attractive because if Missy's appearance is being used, it is to attract a male audience. Ms. Ryan does not fall into that demographic and thus, her comments mean little to those trying to market her. This doesn't lessen Ms. Ryan's right to express her opinion, but she should have realized that because Missy is considered attractive by many men, and many who have met her will attest that she is a genuinly sweet person, any negative remarks about Missy's appearance would come off as jealous cheap shots. Judging by the response, just that happened as Ms. Ryan appeared jealous of a successful commentator as opposed to someone providing professional criticism about Missy's job performance. Ms. Ryan's defense of her comments did little to change that perception as it was a rationalization and nothing more. As credible as her background may be, she overlooked Missy's job requirements and that Missy Hyatt performs her job well. By overlooking these all too important facts, and instead concentrating on Missy's appearance, she nullified any crediblity her education may have given her in this argument. In the end, her comments, regardless of her rationalizations, lacked courtesy, thought and professionalism and did not belong in a quality bulletin like Arena Report.

Paul Macarthur
Camillus, NY

Harry Speaks

Speaking on behalf of the residents of St. Louis, I would like to ask the warlocks and voodoo priests of Southern Florida to call off their curse on our city. Since the whining, crybaby, sore loser Arena Report editorial on why STARCADE should have been in St. Pete, St. Louis has fallen on bad times. We can only assume that with Ron Lemieux's influential contacts in the occult, a hex was put on St. Louis for being a superior location for STARCADE. The Cardinals lost two popular players to free agency which in this sports town almost caused a Jim Jones Guyana type mass suicide. The three weekends right after STARCADE, we had ice and snow storms which gridlocked the city. Now Kie Auditorium is being torn down in June so there will be no more building for WCW to have another STARCADE. Wrestling fans are beer drinkers so STARCADE was held at the location of the nation's largest brewery-Anheiser Busch. Real wrestling fans drink beer and not fresh squeezed orange and mango juice like everyone drinks in Florida. A lot of wrestling fans have never had dates or have wives and girlfriends who have left them over wrestling. In that case, than the fan's best friend is his dog. Well, St Louis is the home of the National Dog Museum. St. Louis is also one of the few cities left that is not home to a "parasite" newsletter editor. Therefore, it was considered a "safe" location. Casey of WCW merchandising was behind in his T-shirts sales and he knew if STARCADE was in St. Louis that Bruce and the twins from Nebraska would come down and spend \$500 on shirts.

Another thing that you Florida readers should consider is with Florida's mesquite infestation, it might be very uncomfortable to get a good "Notes From The Parking Lot" reported after a big show in Florida. (I'm sorry about that last remark, it must have been my dark Lance Levine side.)

Did anyone see that picture of John Lanigan with Salvatore Bellomo and John telling everyone it was Bruno?

Harry White
St. Louis, MO

RL- How much did the mayor of St. Looie pay you to hype up that city with the golden rainbow?

Marianne Ryan

As you know, in the letter I wrote when I subscribed, I did so because of Marianne's sheet that folded. And it was the notes from the parking lot that I missed. I am in total agreement with Evan. We haven't got much from her in your sheet.

And Marianne, for all your education, you should realize that if you're going to travel with the WWF boys, go in their rooms and get caught in compromising situations, people are going to say that stuff. I choose to believe you but you must learn to ignore this.

And finally, let's hear more from Mike Terry.

Linda Adams
Omaha, NE

P.S. I'd only like to be half as fortunate as Missy Hyatt. And she is exactly what their target market calls for.

Censor Tester

Crowd chant of the year, started up by Greg Scatton at the last Toronto NWA live show, directed at the Nasty Boys- "Saggs Sucks Knobbs". Wouldn't you love to see a WWF crowd at a TV taping chant that at the Nasties when they start up there? I know I would.

J.Z. Travis
Woodstock, ONT

RL- Figures you sick Canuck!!!

(from page 5)

a deal with the USWA but only in buying the syndicated network. Boy, it seems like Dave was trying to tell everyone that all along....Pretty scary when your cable company calls you and asks if your going to order the wrestling show. I told them I was going live. Talk about big brother watching....I was about to go into a long diatribe about Tom Zenk getting the TV title but Arn took care of that for me....Have to comment on an item in Scott Hudson's journal. Our famous fictitious booker told me Buddy Landell was psyched that Dusty was coming in because he'd get a push. How long did it take Sting to beat Landell at the tapings? One minute, thirty seconds. Boy Buddy, I'd hate to see you get buried. Give the guy a break already. He's paid his dues.... Hope this doesn't seem rushed but its been a hectic few days. Ms. Ryan's colu never came so maybe you goons scared her off. Maybe, maybe not. I'll let you know. Until then.

See ya,

Ron